



# Falcon Family News

April 2016



## CADET MEDIA GRADUATION INFORMATION –

The United States Air Force Academy Office of Cadet Media is happy to bring you our Class of 2016 one-of-a-kind graduation products:

VIDEOS, YEARBOOK AND PHOTOS

The graduation DVD includes every Class of 2016 graduate receiving his/her diploma on graduation day plus highlights of graduation week activities. This DVD is the only graduation product officially sanctioned by the USAF Academy. For an order form go to

[www.usafasupport.com/cadet-media.html](http://www.usafasupport.com/cadet-media.html)

**POLARIS:** The class of 2016 yearbook highlights the final year at the Air Force Academy, providing a comprehensive, creative collection of academic, athletic, and cadet life events for the 2015-2016 academic year.

For an order form go to

[www.usafasupport.com/cadet-media.html](http://www.usafasupport.com/cadet-media.html)

Create a lifetime memory with family, friends and supporters with a congratulatory message or Parent Club ad in their Class of 2016 graduation yearbook online at

[www.usafasupport.com/cadet-media.html](http://www.usafasupport.com/cadet-media.html) or

<http://www.wpccolorado.com/usafa/>

If you have any questions call Cadet Media at (719) 333-4644, send an email to [cwmedia@usafa.edu](mailto:cwmedia@usafa.edu) or write to Cadet Media, P.O. Box 6066, USAFA CO 80841-6066.

Don't forget to look for our professional photographers here to serve you! Graduation day, a professional photographer will photograph each cadet receiving his or her diploma. The photographer will contact parents shortly after graduation to discuss how to purchase these photographs.

Cadets' guests will not be allowed access to the stage or cadet seating area for personal photos. If you do not hear from the photographer, please contact Prestige Portraits by Lifetouch at 1 (800) 426-9533 Sherri P. ext. 128 or Maria T. ext. 241 or email [mturner@lifetouch.com](mailto:mturner@lifetouch.com).

Information on obtaining photographs from Class of 2016 graduation week activities will be online at:

<https://events.lifetouch.com/usairforceacademycoloradospringsco>

**COMMISSIONING:** (Varied Locations) Arnold Hall

\*Get a professional photograph of your cadet with new 2Lt bars after commissioning. No appointment necessary!

**GRADUATION BALL:** Arnold Hall Ballroom

\*Professional portrait photographers are available at Arnold Hall for formal cadet and family portraits. No appointment necessary!

**RING DINING-OUT: (FOR SECOND-CLASS CADETS AND GUESTS ONLY)** Mitchell Hall

\*Professional portrait photographers are available in Mitchell Hall for formal portraits of cadets, couples, group photos with Ring. No appointment necessary!

**RING DANCE (FOR SECOND-CLASS CADETS AND GUESTS ONLY)**

Arnold Hall Ballroom

\*Professional portrait photographers are available in Arnold Hall for professional portraits of cadets, couples, group photos. No appointment necessary!

## CONTACT INFORMATION FOR CADET MEDIA:

Cadet Wing Media

PO Box 6066

USAFA, CO 80841-6066

Commercial: (719) 333-4644

Fax: (719)333-6376

Contact Us: [cwmedia@usafa.edu](mailto:cwmedia@usafa.edu)

## 97.7FM KAFA CADET RADIO STATION

“VOICE OF USAFA” - Listen online at:

[www.usafa.org/Media/KAFAPopup](http://www.usafa.org/Media/KAFAPopup)

- Download for FREE from the USAFA apps for Android© or iPhone© click the “Radio” button for mobile streaming

- Station contact info: (719) 333-KAFA (5232)

[kafafm@gmail.com](mailto:kafafm@gmail.com)

**CADET TAXES** - Most cadets don't have many deductions and file an EZ form. USAFA has volunteers that can do their taxes for free and ensure they have used all the appropriate deductions.

Tax preparation is done on an appointment basis. This information will be posted in the cadet area. The USAFA Tax Center is located near the South Gate, at the 10th ABW/HQ Building, 8034 Edgerton Drive, Suite 237. Cadets can call for appointments at 333-3920. If your cadets (C4Cs) need proof of attendance for you to claim part of the year, the cadet needs to go online to [USAFA Registrar's website](#) and request a letter. The cadet can pick up the letter from the Registrar's Office (Fairchild Hall).

**GOLD PROP AND WINGS** - The Cadet Site Picture states that Cadets will wear standard chrome plated prop and wings on flight caps upon recognition. Direct descendants of Army Air Corps, Women Air Force Service Pilots, or parent USAF Academy graduate are authorized to wear gold prop and wings.

**HONOR LIST** - The Fall Semester Honors List can be found at the following website:  
[www.usafa.edu/df/dfr/Spring2016HonorsList.pdf](http://www.usafa.edu/df/dfr/Spring2016HonorsList.pdf).

#### Honors List Criteria

**Athletic Director's List:** Cadets who earn a semester Physical Education Average (PEA) of at least 3.0 will be on the Athletic Director's list. These cadets are authorized to wear the Athletic Director's pin on their uniform for the next semester. PEA is a weighted 4.00 grading scale (50% Physical Fitness Test + 35% Phys Ed course grades + 15% Aerobic Fitness Test).

**Dean's List:** The cadet has to earn a 3.0 GPA, minus grades from physical education courses.

**Commandant's List:** The top one-third of each class year are eligible for this honor. Stipulation, if a cadet is on "ANY" probation, he/she is not eligible for the honor.

**Superintendent's List:** Cadets must be on the Dean's/Commandant's/AD lists combined

#### PHOTO ACCESS FOR PARENTS -

The U.S. Air Force Academy Public Affairs office provides command information to the installation and the public. One of the ways we do this is through social media venues such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. All information provided is official, but there is also fun stuff on there too. Did you know you can download photos from our Facebook page for free?

FB: [www.facebook.com/USAFA.Official](http://www.facebook.com/USAFA.Official)  
Twitter: @AF\_Academy  
Instagram: AF\_Academy

We also want your Academy photos. Upload them to Instagram using #YourAcademy. You might see it on Facebook and Twitter. If you have any questions, please call the Public Affairs office at (719) 333-7731.

There are also more **FREE** pictures on the Academy website. You can gain access from the following website:

[www.usafa.edu/cadetFocus/cadetPhotos/index.cfm](http://www.usafa.edu/cadetFocus/cadetPhotos/index.cfm)

#### PROOF OF CADET HEALTH INSURANCE -

Please review the below link. The link will provide you with the phone number and information on how you can receive proof of medical coverage. I would suggest calling the Beneficiary Line below for urgent requests. Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

1 (800) 444-5445

[www.tricare.mil/Plans/Eligibility/DEERS/milConnect/Proof.aspx](http://www.tricare.mil/Plans/Eligibility/DEERS/milConnect/Proof.aspx)

#### ACADEMY APP AVAILABLE -



Do you have an iTunes or Android enabled device? Scan one of the QR codes below with your barcode scanner to download the new Air Force Academy App. Get the latest Academy news, photos, videos, and more.

You can also access free photos on the Academy's website site at:

<http://www.usafa.edu/cadetFocus/cadetPhotos/index.cfm>

Just select your cadet's class year!



iTunes



Android

#### CLASS STATISTICS (as of 31 Mar 2016)

Class Year	Men	Women	Total
2016	642	185	827
2017	776	235	1011
2018	825	223	1048
2019	839	289	1128
<b>WING</b>	<b>3082</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>4014</b>

56 International Cadets are counted in the Cadet Wing Strength, but do not count in the Fiscal year Strength.



## FOUNDERS VIDEO IS NOW AVAILABLE –



[\(Take a look\)](#)

## CADET SUMMER INFORMATION -

**Shipment of Household Goods:** Cadets/ Graduates must contact the JPPSO office at (719) 333-3007.

Below is the weight allowed per category:

350 lbs - International students/Cadets

10,000 lbs - Unmarried 2nd Lt

12,000 lbs - Married 2nd Lt (spouse on orders)

**No Summer Bus Transportation Provided:** Summer Commercial Bus Transportation will **NOT** be provided. Cadets' parents can make arrangements for transportation to and from Denver International and Colorado Springs Airports by contacting the following: (you can also check online for other companies)

- Colorado Springs Shuttle, LLC,  
(719) 687-3456, 1-877-587-3456  
[www.coloradoshuttle.com/index.php](http://www.coloradoshuttle.com/index.php)
- Front Range Shuttle (direct to airports):  
(719) 237-2646  
[www.frontrangeshuttle.com](http://www.frontrangeshuttle.com)
- A Ride in Luxury:  
1 (800) 813-9916, (719) 243-3365  
[www.arideinluxury.com/colorado-airport-transportation/](http://www.arideinluxury.com/colorado-airport-transportation/)
- A & B Limo Towncar:  
(303) 578-4802  
[www.cartotheairportdenver.com](http://www.cartotheairportdenver.com)

## Cabs Allowed Access to USAFA Before and After

**Visiting Hours:** There are two cab companies that have been approved by Security Forces to be allowed on to the base before and after visiting hours. Their contact information is below:

- Yellow Cab (719) 777-7777  
<http://www.yccos.com/community.html> has approval access to the base. Other cab companies would have to have a driver that already has a military Identification (retired military) to gain access to the installation after visiting hours (0900- 1700 daily)
- Springs Cab (719) 444-8686  
[www.springscabllc.com](http://www.springscabllc.com)

## USAF ACADEMY MASCOT -

Speed, courage, and powerful flight; these are terms symbolic of the mission of the U.S. Air Force.

These also aptly describe the falcon, chosen by the first class to enter the Academy as the official mascot of the cadet wing.

The falcon is a noble bird that catches its prey in flight, killing on impact. It has keen eyesight, sharp talons, and a hooked beak for fighting. The fastest of all birds, the falcon can reach top speeds of 220 mph. It's ability to turn sharply and to streak only inches above the ground make it one of the most maneuverable birds.

The Class of 1959 chose the falcon to be the Academy's mascot in 1955, but did not specify which species of falcon.

Any of the falcon species native to North America (the gyrfalcon, peregrine, prairie, merlin, or kestrel) may be an Academy mascot. A peregrine falcon, named Mach 1, was the first falcon presented to the Academy on 5 October 1955.

## Aurora

Aurora is the official mascot of the U.S. Air Force Academy. She is a gyrfalcon who came to the Academy in 1996. Aurora is an extremely rare bird; her white coloring is only found in about one percent of the gyrfalcon population. Gyrfalcons are native to the Arctic Circle, so she finds it warm here in Colorado even during the winter. She does not perform at football games, but she does occasionally fly for exercise over the Academy's athletic fields. In the wild, gyrfalcons hunt other birds in the air ranging in size from a pigeon to a Canadian goose.



## CADET INSIGNIA AND BADGES -

**Superintendent's Pin:** Worn only by those cadets whose name appears on the Superintendent's list for obtaining the Commandant's Pin, Dean's Pin, and Athletic Director's Pin for the previous semester.

**Commandant's Pin:** Worn by those cadets whose name appears on the Commandant's List. The Commandant's List is reserved for cadets in the top one third in military performance by class. They will retain this status until the end of the next academic semester.

**Dean's Pin:** Worn by those cadets whose name appears on the Dean's list for obtaining a Grade Point Average of a 3.0 or above for the previous semester.

**Athletic Director's Pin:** Athletic Director's Pin: Worn by those cadets who obtain a semester Physical Education Average (PEA) of at least 3.00 during the academic year. The PEA is based on 50% Physical Fitness Test score, 15% Aerobic Fitness Test score and 35% P.E. class grade. Cadets on any probation do not qualify for the Athletic Director's pin. Combinations of the Commandant's Pin, Dean's Pin, and Athletic Director's Pin are worn to signify attainment of placement on multiple lists the previous semester.

**Soaring Instructor Pilot Wings:** World War II glider pilot wings awarded to cadet soaring instructor pilots upon completion of AM-461. A star and wreath are added as cadets progress through the soaring program.

**Flying Team Wings:** Approved in October 2012, these wings are worn by members of the Flying Team, a select group of cadets who were selected after arriving at the Air Force Academy with a Private Pilot's license. A star and wreath are added as cadets progress through the soaring program.

**Cadet Flight Wings:** Flight wings with star are worn by cadets who have soloed a USAFA glider or a powered aircraft. Wings without star are worn by cadets who have completed at least 10 flights in a USAFA glider but have not soloed.

**Cadet Aviation Club Wings:** Worn by cadet aviation instructors. A star is added for a senior cadet aviation instructor.

**Cadet Space Wings:** Worn by cadets who are involved in space activities. A star and wreath are added as cadets progress through the space program.

**Cadet Cyberwarfare Badge:** Worn by cadets to acknowledge the achievement of cadets who are involved in the cyberwarfare program. A star and wreath are added as cadet's progress through the cyber program.

**Parachutist Badge:** Worn by those cadets who have successfully completed either the Airmanship 490 Basic Parachuting course taught by the 98 FTS or graduates of the US Army Basic Airborne Course, Ft. Benning, GA. Senior and Master Parachutist badges require operational experience and are awarded as authorized in AFI 11-402.

**Air Assault Badge:** Worn by those cadets who have successfully completed US Army Basic Air Assault School.

**Bulldog Badge:** Worn by those cadets who have completed the Marine Corps Bulldog program at Quantico, VA.

### UAS Wings:

Worn by cadets who have completed Small UAS (SUAS) certification. A star and wreath are added as cadets progress through the UAS program as instructors and evaluators/test pilots.

## THE CONTRAILS:

### CLASS AND BUILDING COLORS -

In modern architecture, the three primary colors are prevalent [in the design of the Air Force Academy]. Since the Academy was to reflect modern architecture, red, blue, and yellow were chosen for the original Academy colors. The following are the significant aspects of these colors:



**Red** The sun

**Blue** The sky

**Yellow** The grasses on the plains

**Silver** Stainless steel to mirror aircraft technology

Originally green was supposed to be the fourth color (instead of silver) to symbolize the trees in the forest.

However, since green is not a primary color, the original architects went with red, blue, and yellow to start.

## **PREP SCHOOL INFORMATION**

Below is the Point of Contact for questions for our Preparatory School Candidate parents.

Central Email for Prep School Questions:

[PrepInfo@usafa.edu](mailto:PrepInfo@usafa.edu)

Website: [www.usafa.edu/?catname=Prep School](http://www.usafa.edu/?catname=Prep%20School)

Mail: HQ USAFA/PL

5229 Cedar Drive, Suite 117

USAF Academy, CO 80840-3100

## **HELPFUL WEBSITES and POCs -**

### **Parent Information Link:**

[www.usafa.af.mil/Leadership/CadetDevelopment/ParentsClub.aspx](http://www.usafa.af.mil/Leadership/CadetDevelopment/ParentsClub.aspx)

### **Graduation Information Link:**

[www.usafa.edu/superintendent/graduation/index.cfm?catname=graduation](http://www.usafa.edu/superintendent/graduation/index.cfm?catname=graduation)

### **Graduation Week Schedule:**

[www.usafa.edu/superintendent/graduation/data/2016gradSchedule.pdf](http://www.usafa.edu/superintendent/graduation/data/2016gradSchedule.pdf)

### **Graduation Formal Reception Ticket Information:**

[www.usafa.edu/superintendent/graduation/data/GraduationFormalReception.pdf](http://www.usafa.edu/superintendent/graduation/data/GraduationFormalReception.pdf)

### **Order Form for Yearbook, Graduation Video and Yearbook:**

[www.usafa.edu/superintendent/graduation/data/2016GradOrderForm.pdf](http://www.usafa.edu/superintendent/graduation/data/2016GradOrderForm.pdf)

### **Order Form for Grad Ball and Graduation Ceremony Photos:**

[www.usafa.edu/superintendent/graduation/data/Lifetouch\\_flyer.pdf](http://www.usafa.edu/superintendent/graduation/data/Lifetouch_flyer.pdf)

### **Prep School Graduation Schedule of events:**

[www.usafa.edu/superintendent/graduation/data/PrepSchoolGraduation\\_Schedule.pdf](http://www.usafa.edu/superintendent/graduation/data/PrepSchoolGraduation_Schedule.pdf)

### **USAFA's Public Calendar Link:**

(Managed by the Association of Graduates.)

[www.usafa.org/Calendar/Events](http://www.usafa.org/Calendar/Events)

## **2016-2017 Academic Calendar Link:**

The Academic Calendar for 2016-2017 has been approved and you can find it at the following link:

[www.usafa.af.mil/Portals/21/documents/About Us Docs/2016\\_2017\\_Calendar.pdf?ver=2016-03-08-095219-077](http://www.usafa.af.mil/Portals/21/documents/About%20Us_Docs/2016_2017_Calendar.pdf?ver=2016-03-08-095219-077)

## **Curriculum Handbook:**

(which also outlines what summer programs are available for cadets in what year):

[www.usafa.edu/df/dfr/curriculum/CHB.pdf](http://www.usafa.edu/df/dfr/curriculum/CHB.pdf)

## **Cadet Clubs:**

(just a listing of clubs and POCs, not a schedule of where they may be):

[www.usafa.edu/cadetFocus/cadetClubs/](http://www.usafa.edu/cadetFocus/cadetClubs/)

## **Cadet Survival Guide:**

[www.usafasupport.com/home.html](http://www.usafasupport.com/home.html)

## **Cadet Media:**

[www.usafasupport.com/cadet-activities/cadet-media](http://www.usafasupport.com/cadet-activities/cadet-media)

## **Admissions:**

(parents can help us recruit future cadets):

[www.academyadmissions.com/](http://www.academyadmissions.com/)

## **Sports Schedules:**

[www.goairforcefalcons.com/calendar/events/](http://www.goairforcefalcons.com/calendar/events/)

## **Base Cadet Treats (Flower Shop):**

(719) 472-8589

[petalsnblooms.com](http://petalsnblooms.com)

## **Gift Cards order phone numbers:**

Cadet Store (Base Exchange) (719) 472-1953

10 FSS: (719) 472-7930

## **Hometown News Release (must have CAC card):**

<https://jhns.release.dma.mil/public>

## **Life Touch photos:**

POC: Sherri Peloso

1 (800) 426-9533 extension 128 or 241

<http://lifetouch.com/>



## UPCOMING DATES:

16-20 May 16	Cadet Spring Finals
24 May 16	Prep School Graduation
2 Jun 16	2016 Graduation
4 Jun 16	1 <sup>st</sup> Summer Session Begins
24 Jun 16	1 <sup>st</sup> Summer Session Ends
25 Jun 16	2 <sup>nd</sup> Summer Session Begins
30 Jun 16	Class of 2020 In-Processes
17 Jul 16	<u>Prep School</u> – Prior Service report (in-processing)
17 Jul 16	Doolie Day Out (Sponsors pick up approx. 8:00 am to 7:00 pm (Cadets can have cell phones that day)
20 Jul 16	<u>Prep School</u> - Direct Entry report (in-processing)
1 Jul 16	Class of 2020 Swearing In Ceremony (8:30 am) at Chapel Wall
15 Jul 16	Field Day (viewing only...no cadet access)
15 Jul 16	2 <sup>nd</sup> Summer Session Ends
16 Jul 16	Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo (No parent access)
16 Jul 16	3 <sup>rd</sup> Summer Session Begins
6 Aug 16	3 <sup>rd</sup> Summer Session Ends
TBD	March out to Jacks Valley (8:00 am)
TBD	March back from Jacks Valley (8:00 am)
6 Aug 16	Cadet Wing Returns by 7:00 pm
8 Aug 16 (tentative)	Laptops Issued
9 Aug 16 (tentative)	Freshman E-mail should be up on e-mail
TBD	Acceptance Parade (9:00 am) (2020 class are allowed cell phones)
TBD	2018 Class Commitment Dinner (time TBD)
12 Aug 16	New Semester Classes Start
15 Aug 16	USAFA/FMF will accept Scholarship Checks
2-5 Sep 16	Parents' Weekend 2016
<a href="http://www.usafa.edu/superintendent/parentsweekend/?catname=Parents%27%20Weekend">http://www.usafa.edu/superintendent/parentsweekend/?catname=Parents%27%20Weekend</a>	
22-27 Nov 16	Cadet Thanksgiving Break (after LMD). Return by 7:00 pm on 27 Nov 16
TBD	Prep School Thanksgiving Break (released at 9:00 am)
15-20 Dec 16	Cadet Winter Finals
21 Dec 16 – 3 Jan 17	Cadet Winter Break (Cadet Wing returns 7:00 pm on 3 Jan 17)
TBD	Prep School Winter Break (released at 0900/return by 7 pm on <b>TBD</b> )
22 - 24 Feb 17	Character & Leadership Symposium (NCLS)
9 - 11 Mar 17	Recognition for Class of 2020
24 Mar 17 – 2 Apr 17	Cadet Spring Break (Cadet Wing returns 7:00 pm on 2 Apr 17)
TBD	Prep School Spring Break (Returns <b>TDB</b> )
15-19 May 17	Cadet Spring Finals
31 May 17	2017 Graduation

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

**Marie**

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Parents' Liaison  
U.S. Air Force Academy, CO  
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